Serial No.: 10/054,413 Case No.: 20818

Page No.: 2

Please amend the application as follows:

## **Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of Claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of Claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A process for preparing a compound of formula I:

comprising coupling a compound of formula II with a compound of formula III in the presence of an organic base <u>selected from the group consisting of NBu<sub>3</sub>, Me<sub>2</sub>NBu and Me<sub>2</sub>NBn in a solvent system <u>selected from the group consisting of MeCN, MeCN/water</u> and DMF/water.</u>

- 2. (Canceled)
- 3. (Canceled)
- 4. (Currently amended) The process of Claim 1 further comprising the step of combining 2-amino-5-phenylpyrazine (IV) and phenyl chloroformate in an organic solvent system MeCN to yield the compound of formula III.

Serial No.: 10/054,413 Case No.: 20818

Page No.: 3

## 5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently amended) The A process for preparing a compound of formula III of Claim 4 further comprising the step of combining 2-amino-5-bromopyrazine (V) and phenyl boronic acid in an organic solvent system in the presence of a catalyst to yield the compound of formula IV.

7. (Original) The process of Claim 6 wherein the catalyst is selected from the group consisting of PdCl<sub>2</sub>·dppf·CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, Pd(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub>, Pd(OAc)/PPh<sub>3</sub>, Cl<sub>2</sub>Pd[(Pet<sub>3</sub>)]<sub>2</sub>, Pd(DIPHOS)<sub>2</sub>, Cl<sub>2</sub>Pd(Bipy), [PdCl(Ph<sub>2</sub>PCH<sub>2</sub>PPh<sub>2</sub>)]<sub>2</sub>, Cl<sub>2</sub>Pd[P(o-tol)<sub>3</sub>]<sub>2</sub>, Pd<sub>2</sub>(dba)<sub>3</sub>/P(o-tol)<sub>3</sub>, Pd<sub>2</sub>(dba)/P(furyl)<sub>3</sub>, Cl<sub>2</sub>Pd[P(furyl)<sub>3</sub>]<sub>2</sub>, Cl<sub>2</sub>Pd(PMePh<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>, Cl<sub>2</sub>Pd[P(4-F-Ph)<sub>3</sub>]<sub>2</sub>, Cl<sub>2</sub>Pd[P(C<sub>6</sub>F<sub>6</sub>)<sub>3</sub>]<sub>2</sub>, Cl<sub>2</sub>Pd[P(2-COOH-Ph)(Ph)<sub>2</sub>]<sub>2</sub>, Cl<sub>2</sub>Pd[P(4-COOH-Ph)(Ph)<sub>2</sub>]<sub>2</sub>.

8. (Original) The process of Claim 7 wherein the catalyst is selected from the group consisting of PdCl<sub>2</sub>·dppf·CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, Pd(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub>, Cl<sub>2</sub>Pd[P(4-F-Ph)<sub>3</sub>]<sub>2</sub>, Cl<sub>2</sub>Pd[P(4-COOH-Ph)(Ph)<sub>2</sub>]<sub>2</sub>.

9. (Original) The process of Claim 6 further comprising the step of combining 2-aminopyrazine and a bromination agent to yield the compound of formula V.

10. (Original) The process of Claim 9 wherein the bromination agent is selected from the group consisting of Br<sub>2</sub>, NBS, Bu<sub>4</sub>NBr<sub>3</sub>, N-bromo acetamide and 1,3-dibromo-5,5-dimethylhydantoin.

11. (Original) The process of Claim 10 wherein the bromination agent is selected from the group consisting of NBS and 1,3-dibromo-5,5-dimethylhydantoin.